Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace paragraph [0010] with:

[0010] The match lines in a CAM array are typically pre-charged to the supply voltage VDD for each and every compare operation. Thus, for each mismatch condition, an associated match line ML is first charged toward VDD and then discharged toward ground potential. Current flow associated with this charging and discharging results in undesirable power consumption. Further, as the number of CAM cells in each row of a CAM array increases, capacitive loading on the match lines increases accordingly. As loading on the match lines increases, the current required to charge the match lines toward the supply voltage increases. Accordingly, as CAM words are widened, for example, to accommodate longer Internet addresses, power consumption resulting from charging the match lines during compare operations may significantly increase. Furthermore, because mis-matches are far more common than matches, as internet Addresses are lengthened and CAM words widened, power consumption increases substantially. Therefore, the need exists for a circuit architecture that reduces the power consumed by the CAM.